(b) if so, the present status of Government's decision;

(c) whether all farmers in the country have since been provided with soil health card; and

(d) if not, by when all farmers in the country are likely to get soil health card?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Government of India has launched a new scheme, namely, "National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility" during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. The scheme *inter alia* envisages setting up of 500 new static soil testing laboratories (STLs) and 250 new mobile STLs in the country during 11th Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) Based on soil test, soil health cards are issued to the farmers by State Governments. As per reports received, 279.54 lakh soil health cards have been issued to the farmers in the country till March, 2009.

Corruption in DMS

2469. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has recently unearthed a scam in Delhi Milk Scheme(DMS) involving nexus of officials of his Ministry with DMS employees in allotment of milk booths to relatives and diversion of milk meant for supply in NCR, causing losses to exchequer;

(b) if so, the details of the *modus-operandi* of the scam unearthed by CBI;

(c) whether Government proposes to take further action in this regard and fix responsibility; and

(d) if so, the derails thereof and steps likely to be taken to remove corrupt practices prevalent in the DMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) No Sir. However, CBI has informed that it has registered a case No.RC48(A)/2009-ACB-Delhi against the officials of DMS and the case is under investigation by the CBI. Further action will depend on the outcome of the investigation.

Diseases in animals

2470. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of various diseases in animals particularly Mad Cow disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), the brains of animals particularly cows and buffaloes get destroyed; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that animals particularly cows and buffaloes are not affected by any disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of various diseases in animals, including Mad Cow disease. A number of animal diseases are reported in India, However, Mad Cow disease (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) has never been reported in any part of the country.

(c) and (d) The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE's) in humans is known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), which does not destroy brains of cows and buffaloes.

India is historically free from Mad Cow disease. Therefore, in order to prevent ingress of the disease, all possible measures have been taken, including ban on import of all livestock and livestock products, fresh meat, meat products, tissue, organs and meat and bone meal of ruminant origin from the countries affected by TSE group of diseases. Within the country, use or trade of Meat & Bone Meal (MBM) in ruminant feed is also prohibited. Surveillance on BSE is undertaken. More than 11,000 brain samples from cattle so far tested for BSE have been found negative.

Adequate supply of certified seeds

†2471. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers are not getting adequate supply of certified seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the immediate steps being taken by Government to ensure supply of certified seeds to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As reported by States the availability of certified/quality seed in the country is 279,72,187 quintals against the requirement of 249,12,019 quintals for the current year 2009-10.

(c) Details are as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.